(b) Export position with US and other developed countries during April-October, 2001-02, are as under:—

(In US $ Million)

Countries/Regions	April-Oct. 2001-2002
US	4817
EU	5548
Japan	874

(c) Export promotion continues to be a major thrust area. Several measures to boost exports have been undertaken in order to provide competitive edge to the Indian goods in the International market. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate of both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for period of one year, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. The declining trend in exports experienced during the early part of the current financial year has been checked. Further, taking stock of the developments in the recent past and considering the current global economic environment, the Medium Term Export Strategy for the period 2002—2007 has been announced.

Production and export of tea

1651. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea produced in the country during the last three years beginning from 1997-98, year-wise;

(b) the total volume of tea exports during the above period in terms of quantity and value togetherwith its share in the global export market;

(c) whether it is a fact that our tea exports to the international market has been stagnating, if not declining, during the above period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reverse the downward trend in tea exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The total quantity of tea produced in the country during the three years from 1997-98 is given below:—

Year	Production (Mn. Kgs.)
1997-98	835.64
1998-1999	854.78
1999-2000*	835.35

*Provisional and subject to revision.

(b) The total exports of tea from India in terms of quantity and value during the three years from 1997-98 is given below:—

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Quantity (Mn. Kgs.)	Value
1997-98	211.26	2003.15
1998-1999	205.86	2191.84
1999-2000	192.44	1922.66

However, the global tea export is available only on calendar year basis. The share of Indian tea exports in the global tea exports is given below:—

Year	Global tea export (Mn. Kgs.)	Indian tea export (Mn. Kgs.)	Share(%)
1997	1209.94	203.00	16.78
1998	1306.47	210.34	16.10
1999	1257.93	191.72	15.24

(c) Yes Sir. There has been a decline in export of tea from India in quantity terms but in value terms the exports had increased in 1988-99 compared to exports in 1997-98 but declined in 1999-2000.

(c) The main reasons accounting for the decline in export of tea include disintegration of erstwhile USSR, various tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by the tea importing countries and stiff competition from other producing-exporting countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya, China, Indonesia and Vietnam.

In order to promote exports, Tea Board has taken various steps which include preparation of a medium term export strategy for tea for the next five years to sustain and gain market share in key countries, launching a quality upgradation programme for improving the quality of tea, introduction of a factory upgradation scheme to promote production of orthodox tea to cater to the world demand, registration of Tea Board Logo and speciality Tea Logo in major tea importing countries, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, lending promotional support to India exporters in marketing Indian brands, field smapling at speciality stores and in principal markets, media campaign to increase consumer awareness of Indian teas, exchange of tea delegations etc. The Government have also introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance to tea exporters to meet part of the cost of handling packaging, transport/ freight and value additon, in order to increse tea-export from India during the last quarter of current financial year.